



# MEETING SUMMARY

## Recreation Management and Visitor Use and Needs at Silverwood SRA

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### Meeting Details

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**Date:** 10 July 2017

**Time:** 3:30pm

**Location:** **Mojave Siphon Powerhouse Maintenance Building**

**Objectives:** Gather information on recreation management and visitor use and needs at Silverwood Lake SRA

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### Attendees

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Lisa McCandless, Stantec; Kirby Gilbert, Stantec; Joseph Salazar, Environmental Scientist, DWR Southern Field Division

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### Summary

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Joseph serves as an Environmental Scientist with the Southern Field Division and has been with the Division for several years. Joseph provided the following input and information as part of our inquiries regarding recreation use management and observations at Silverwood Lake:

- Joseph summarized the general recreation use patterns outlining that on some weekends, and most holidays, the Park has to close to further visitors by mid-morning because parking spaces are full. Those turned away often park along Highway 138, on the shoulder or overlook areas, and walk down into the park. This is done through either the main entrance area or along social trails that lead down to the water's edge (particularly in and around the Chamise cove area).
- Joseph acknowledged that their department receives the monthly visitation reports from Parks, and that Victoria Valentine of Southern Field Division could help us find the last decade or so of visitation reports.
- DWR patrols the lake in order to determine if there are safety hazards. If they identify such concerns, they work with Parks to address the issue. Joseph mentioned that there was some erosion around the Chamise boat-in area.

- Joseph has inventoried facilities and amenities for most of the park areas, as he helped with preparing the most recent recreation management plan update. Joseph maintains KMZ files that document many site locations and attributes. Joseph indicated that he would send those to Lisa.
- Joseph discussed and provided maps, which indicate that the shoreline of the Cleghorn arm of the lake (West fork Mojave River) is filling in with sediment. The shoreline has accretion, in terms of a sediment delta that is slowly building in this part of the lake. Because of this, some of the Cleghorn day use areas are now farther from the water's edge than they were 10 to 15 years ago.
- Joseph discussed the litter problems around the lake and the difficulties that Parks has in trying to remedy the problem. He also noted that Parks oversees removing floating debris on the lake.
- Joseph noted that the gate to the access road at Miller Canyon is new and a self-pay collection box (iron ranger) was added within the last year also.
- He made note of the July 2016 lake closure, and the fact that there are three levels of warnings provided by Parks to the public. DWR does the monitoring and testing of water quality and provides that data to Parks. In the past, DWR has treated the waters of Silverwood Lake when the state water contractors requested it. Typically, this would help rectify potential taste and odor problems. Copper sulfate has been used in order to try and treat microcystis during harmful algae bloom outbreaks.
- Joseph described the current plans for potentially closing the dam to public access. This would involve building a fence that prohibits access to the dam, service road across the dam crest, and the immediate shoreline at the dam. The fence would skirt the edge of the existing parking area that often serves as an OHV staging area for access to nearby USFS roads, or to access social trails leading to dispersed sites along the eastern shoreline of Silverwood Lake. DWR is working with Parks to undertake public outreach activities and to discuss the proposal with the neighboring communities. The concept currently proposes that the existing restroom facility and trail on the right abutment, which leads to the water's edge for anglers, will be closed. Furthermore, the restrooms will be removed and filled (vault toilets) since this area is on the upstream dam face where they cannot allow public access. The overlook and parking area will remain there and will be available for day users, OHV staging, and other uses. The dam and immediate fishing areas will be closed off.
- Activities planned prior to the closure of the Cedar Springs Dam include posting public notices, notifying agencies, and holding stakeholder workshops. The plan is to have the fencing and signs in place by December 2018, and to have the site permanently closed off to the public.

## Devil Canyon Project Relicensing

- Joseph mentioned that DWR's water quality manager who oversees treatment and water quality at the lake is Richard Jones. Joseph offered to put us in contact with Richard Jones as necessary.
- Joseph mentioned that Denise Barnes could help with agreements and other management and coordination-related activities.

### Action Items:

- 1) Joseph to check with Victoria on getting the recreation study team the Parks visitation reports.
- 2) Joseph to send Lisa the KMZ files (received by Lisa kmz of Silverwood Bike Path and a kmz of Silverwood Trails 7/14/17).